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SOURCE      Sopuk Sinmun.

MOVE OF MILITARY INSTALLATIONS NORTH  
CAUSES SPECULATION AS TO REASON

NORTH KOREANS MOVE MILITARY INSTALLATIONS -- Sopuk Sinmun, 15 Apr 50

It has been reported that in the North Korean People's Republic, relocation of all the military installations from the second defense zone (P'yongyang, Haeju, Chinnamp'o) into the Kwangpuk region (Hamgyong Pukto and Namdo) was started in the latter half of 1949.

It is recalled that during the war the Japanese had moved their military installations from the Japanese mainland into the Kwangpuk region and Manchuria to protect them from the US bombing.

Attention has been focused on this sudden and drastic decision of the People's Republic in expending the effort and expense required for relocating the permanently established installations. Previously, the People's Republic ordered construction of air raid shelters throughout North Korea.

DRAFTS YOUNG WOMEN INTO ARMY -- Sopuk Sinmun, 15 Apr 50

The People's Republic has ordered conscription of all women of ages 18 through 24 into the army. The main duty of the women soldiers is to entertain and comfort the men in the People's Army. The order threw the draft-age women of North Korea into great panic.

The organization of a women's column is believed to be the solution to the inadequacy of recreational and welfare facilities felt after the large-scale expansion of the People's Army.

Prior to the enactment of the law conscripting women, a few women have volunteered to join the army for patriotic reasons, but found the treatment by the army intolerable. Once taken into the army, the women found themselves ruled by iron hands and forced to duties ranging from simple entertainment and nursing to other measures to comfort the soldiers.

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